ABSTRACT

The present invention is directed to a method for auto-negotiation between two communications partners in a network. An initiating communications device advertises a first set of communications capabilities to a receiving device. The receiving device assesses

5 whether it can communicate with the advertised set of capabilities. When the receiving device is unable to communicate with the first set of capabilities, a message is sent to the initiating communications device from the receiving device using standards based signaling techniques. The initiating device then downgrades its set of capabilities to a second set of capabilities and advertises the second set of capabilities to the receiving device. This

10 process is continued until the two devices arrive at a highest common set of capabilities that they can use to communicate.